



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm and dry conditions accelerated harvest activities last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) data, precipitation was minimal last week with moisture mostly confined to western and southeastern counties in the State. Areas of Baca County received nearly three inches of moisture. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on October 5, drought conditions remained prevalent in western and southwestern counties and continued to spread last week. Over 17 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions, and 17 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. Four percent of the State was rated in severe drought, up from to last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, average temperatures were mostly mixed across the State last week, with some counties 4 to 8 degrees above average. In northwestern counties, third cutting of alfalfa advanced and pastures were in mostly fair to good condition. Northeastern counties noted the first freeze took place late last week in some localities. In east central counties, more producers began harvesting corn for grain and winter wheat seeding was nearing completion in areas. Potato harvest in the San Luis Valley made good progress last week. Third cutting of alfalfa in the area also advanced quickly. Livestock remained in good shape, and pastures were maturing as normal for the season.

The third cutting of alfalfa continued amongst drier weather, with 93 percent harvested, just behind last year at 95 percent. The fourth cutting remained behind normal, with 45 percent harvested. The corn crop continued to mature, with 68 percent of the crop in the mature stage. Corn harvested for grain made good progress last week, with 21 percent of the acreage harvested. Sugarbeet harvest advanced quickly in northeastern counties with 45 percent of the crop harvested. Sunflower harvest also began in earnest with 16 percent of the acreage harvested. Potato harvest advanced its pace in the San Luis Valley last week, with 71 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 12 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 54 percent average, and 45 percent light. Sheep death loss was 98 percent average and 2 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
3 rd cutting harvested	93	87	95	NA
4 th cutting harvested	45	28	53	52
Corn				
Mature	68	48	77	77
Harvested for grain	21	8	17	25
Harvested for silage	92	87	97	NA
Dry edible beans				
Cut	95	80	96	NA
Harvested	64	38	62	59
Onions				
Harvested	95	80	94	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	71	62	75	81
Potatoes outside San Luis Valley				
Harvested	96	92	94	90
Proso millet				
Harvested	85	70	88	NA
Sorghum				
Turning color	99	94	100	98
Mature	79	57	68	68
Harvested for grain	16	6	23	22
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	45	26	34	38
Sunflowers				
Harvested	16	--	9	14
Winter wheat				
Planted	89	72	82	84
Emerged	50	36	44	49

NA – not available
(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION				
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	14	11	25	25
Short	37	27	45	36
Adequate	48	61	30	39
Surplus	1	1	--	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	5	9	32	26
Short	27	23	42	36
Adequate	65	67	26	37
Surplus	3	1	--	1

NA – not available
(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION				
Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	4	5	5	NA
Poor	9	10	10	NA
Fair	23	24	29	NA
Good	55	53	49	NA
Excellent.....	9	8	7	NA
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	5	10	8
Poor	9	10	21	15
Fair	34	26	39	28
Good	47	43	26	42
Excellent.....	7	16	4	7
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	6	2	5	NA
Poor	21	14	8	NA
Fair	42	47	22	NA
Good	30	36	34	NA
Excellent.....	1	1	31	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	4	4	12	19
Poor	5	5	23	21
Fair	23	22	29	26
Good	53	55	30	28
Excellent.....	15	14	6	6
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	1	5	5
Poor	1	6	14	11
Fair	14	12	39	34
Good	77	80	33	42
Excellent.....	8	1	9	8
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	1	1	--	3
Fair	26	19	50	30
Good	57	64	50	53
Excellent.....	16	16	--	13
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	1	7	2
Poor	2	3	8	6
Fair	20	12	56	42
Good	75	80	27	46
Excellent.....	3	4	2	4
Livestock				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor	1	1	3	4
Fair	8	4	13	18
Good	83	84	58	62
Excellent.....	8	11	26	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero